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Docket No. HRT-0293

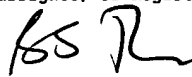
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Stevens et al.
Serial No. : 10/099,690 Art Unit : 3738
Filed : March 15, 2002 Examiner : D. Isabella
Title : Method and Apparatus for Thoracoscopic Intracardiac Procedures

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed
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May 16, 2003
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Brian S. Tomko
(Name of applicant, assignee, or Registered Representative)


(Signature)

May 16, 2003
(Date of Signature)

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed on December 18, 2002, the time for responding
having been extended by petition, please consider the following:

MAILED
MAY 29 2003
GROUP 3700